



Nebraska Task Force - I

Article

by Elaine Sawtell

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Continued from last month

THE AFTERMATH - Santa Rosa, CA, Sunday, May 14, 1995 - FEMA's Type I (Advanced) disaster search dog test is held. Unlike the basic test, which evaluates the dog's ability in five essential elements, the advanced test is strictly reality based and presents the team with three rubble piles, each containing zero to three victims as well as distractions such as people, food, animals, noise. To certify, a team must find five of the six victims and is allowed one false alert. Teams must recertify every two years. Two dogs pass clean, finding all victims with no false alerts in the 20 minutes allowed to search each pile. They are Annie's Colter, the old veteran still suffering the effects of his injury in Oklahoma City, and Ditto, the first dog outside the State of California to pass advanced certification.

Tuesday, May 30, 1995. - In a telephone call after the implosion the OKC FD Chief of Operations informs me the last victims, three instead of two, have been recovered in the area indicated by Ditto.

THE FUTURE - On the federal level, disaster dog training and certification is still in its infancy. National standards patterned after California requirements were adopted in May 1994. Since then the number of certified dogs has increased, along with task force and public support.

ANNE - There were three people on that bunk at Camp Atterbury barely 48 hours before the explosion. Anne and Jenner, from Colorado, were not sent to Oklahoma City. She faced the same frustration I did in the early days after the bombing. Why was Ditto activated? Why wasn't Jenner? In May 1995 Anne spoke to dog handlers at a national SAR conference. Her topic included handler integrity, the courage and

responsibility to say no to a deployment for which one is not yet qualified. Task force leaders and Federal officials discussed ways to streamline the system so our country's best and most qualified teams are there in times of disaster. While Ditto was the ground breaker in assigning certified dogs where needed, Jenner and Anne became symbols of improvements still to be made.

Canine Bulletin

NETF-I

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fire/index.htm

Training Information

RECENT FEMA TESTS: FEMA Basic tests held in Florida and Washington resulted in certification of seven Basic dogs. Four dogs passed in Florida, and three passed in Seattle. Of those passing in Seattle, two were Golden Retrievers and one was a Labrador.

RECENT PARTICIPATION: NETF-I Canine Search Specialists Kelly and Ditto, along with their handlers Vickie Senters and Elaine Sawtell, assisted the Missouri State Highway Patrol in identification of a murder victim. The body, discovered in a wooded area, was badly decomposed and scattered by animals. K9s Kelly and Ditto were able to locate several of the remains, including teeth, making a positive identification possible.

Upcoming Training Events

Indianapolis IN	(Basic and Advanced) April 25-26
Denver, CO	(Basic) May 2-3
Boston, MA	(Advanced) September 26-27
Lincoln, NE	(Basic) October 10-11

There are currently approximately 90 FEMA certified Disaster Search Dogs in the country. Of those 90, approximately 29 are Advanced Teams.

Colorado Task Force 1 will host and sponsor a Type II Canine Search Specialist Evaluation on May 2-3, 1998, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Participants are also invited to attend a one-day advanced seminar on May 4, 1998 in conjunction with this evaluation. **A \$25.00 participation fee will be charged to help defray task force expenses.**

The evaluation will be conducted according to the FEMA Search Canine Readiness Evaluation Process document for Type II evaluations (1995). For clarification, this is the current testing standard with a single rubble victim. A maximum of fifteen evaluation candidates will be accepted on a "first come, first serve" basis. Those teams which do not pass the evaluation on Saturday may re-attempt the entire evaluation on Sunday. On Monday, trainers will facilitate opportunities to practice with multiple victims on large rubble areas and will offer training scenarios to help prepare for the advanced (Type I) evaluation.

Aggression towards people or other animals will not be tolerated at any time.

Arrangements have been made for barracks accommodations at nearby Fort Carson Army Base, if you wish to take advantage of free lodging. **(Please advise on your application if you wish to utilize the barracks at Fort Carson).** Area motels which accept dogs are listed below. Accommodations, travel arrangements, and all safety and personal equipment are entirely the responsibility of the team being evaluated. Colorado Springs Airport is nearby, and Denver International Airport is approximately two hours drive to the north. The evaluation site is primitive and will provide only rudimentary services (port-a-lets, water jugs, limited choice lunches). Veterinarian, medical, safety officer, and rescue capacity will be on site at all times.

Applications are available from John Huff.

TRAINERS - Monica Barger, Laura Elwess, Melody Jensen, Vicky Moser,

AREA MOTELS WHICH ACCEPT DOGS: Hampton Inn North (719)579-6900, Days Inn (719)527-0800, and Motel 6 (719)520-5400 - dogs in no smoking rooms only.

Lincoln Fire Department announces the USAR BOO Exercise for 1998. On April 25th & 26th the Lincoln Fire Department NETF-1 will conduct BOOEX98, a Base of Operations (BOO) Exercise. The exercise will be held at the Technical Training Facility at 2nd and South Street, beginning at 1300 on April 25. In order to make this BOO Exercise a success it will be as realistic as possible. Once the team has successfully established the Base of Operation, there will be time for all task force team members to inspect equipment in the cache to become more familiar with cache contents. Recon teams will be made up and exercised during and after the BOO set up. At the conclusion feed ack will be gathered from all participants regarding concerns they may have regarding the exercise and, for future training, how we may improve the quality of the exercise. Each day's activities will exercise different members of the team. In the event of rain, the exercise will be rescheduled for May 2 & 3, 1998. Anyone interested in attending as observers is welcome.

NETF-1 and MOTF-1 will sponsor a Disaster Search Dog Seminar with instruction by Willy Grundherr and Ty Cobb, from California-Swiss Search Dog Association, June 5-7 in Lincoln. More details later...mark your calendars.

The NETF-1 K-9 training sessions are held on the third Saturday of each month at the Lincoln Fire Department Training Center located at 3rd & South Street from 8:00am - 4:00pm. These training sessions are a great time to observe other dog/handler teams, take ADVANTAGE of the NETF-1 trainers expertise, get ideas on what, where and with who you can train in between monthly sessions.

The upcoming April 18th training session in Lincoln will include a *quarterly evaluation* for those ready in obedience and agility, a *pre-test* to qualify to attend the Colorado Type II certification testing in May, and *individual training*. Be prepared to tell the trainers what you need to work on or have worked on. If your not sure of your dogs progress ask a trainer to help set some goals.

Calender of Canine Training for 1998

May 16	Outstate in Nebraska	September 19	Outstate in Nebraska
June 20	3rd & South/8am	*October 10&11	T.B.A.
July 18	NETF-1 in Missouri	November 21	NETF-1 in Missouri
August 15	3rd & South/8am	*December	NO monthly session

Outstate NETF-1 Members in Lincoln = Outstate Members of NETF-1 will be in Lincoln to work their dogs. These members are very knowledgeable some have been deployed, so take advantage of this time to ask questions and get to know them. Observing the more advanced dog/handler teams can also help give you ideas for training your dog.

NETF-1 in Missouri = Members of the Nebraska Task Force are invited to attend the MOTF-1 training session in Columbia, Missouri. HOWEVER, the most advanced dogs will be worked first. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE that you will have the opportunity to work your dog on the Missouri equipment.

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EVALUATORS - To be a FEMA evaluator a person must have attended the CSS school and have a Basic certified dog. People meeting this and the other requirements can then shadow and are either rostered or recommended for another shadow experience. Any handler is welcome and encouraged to attend Basic and Advanced tests if qualified.

Amy Rising and Linda Hoffert meet these qualifications, but have not yet become evaluators. In addition, Elaine Sawtell and Steve Dolezal are rostered evaluators.

TRAINING LOGS - Training logs must be completed and turned in each month. Your training hours provide important documentation when the Nebraska Task Force (NETF-1) is "audited" by FEMA.

Training Logs Submission Address

Mail or Drop Off Logs to:
Sandy Yost
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Reminders

TRAINING LOGS need to be turned in monthly. Please make sure if you have fallen behind to get those in to Sandy right away. This is a requirement.

Submission of Items for the "Canine Bulletin"

!E-mail, E-mail, E-mail!

E-mail address:
smanning@email.ci.lincoln.ne.us
(preferable, if possible)

Otherwise please mail submissions to:
Shelly Manning
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Address/Phone # Changes

Contact: Sandy or Shelly @ LFD Fire
Administration
(402) 441-7363 or e-mail